Signature Assignment

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MFP600: Introduction to Forensic Psychology

Abstract

In this paper, I will discuss issues regarding releasing sex offenders when their sentence is completed versus continued civil commitment. In this paper, I will discuss careers in the forensic psychology field.

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Issues Regarding Releasing Sex Offenders when their Sentence is Completed Versus Continued Civil Commitment

There are many issues related to releasing sex offenders after completing a sentence. On the contrary, continued civil commitment is responsible for anything but a criminal sentence of a sex offender (Tolman, 2018). The "Black Law Dictionary" focuses on civil commitment. For example, the priority of the law is a court order responsibility of people who are mentally ill, incompetent, and or addicted to drugs (Tolman, 2018). Civil commitment is the legal process of putting an offender in a mental hospital, against their will. A criminal sentence is a legal process of confining an offender. The main purpose of civil commitment is recovery for the individual versus a sentence of incarceration as a punishment for criminal offenses. Civil commitment wants to protect the public and the offender from any possible harm. After all, a sex offender can be dangerous to society. Typically, the court system will decide the extent of how dangerous the offender is. As a result, the justice system will impose a criminal sentence. On the other hand, the civil commitment of sex offenders is committed to hospitalization (Tolman, 2018). Civil commitment is predominantly concerned with the public's safety. For example, an offender is involuntarily hospitalized for sexually dangerous offenses, is drug addicted, poses a threat, is mentally incompetent, and or has mental illness (Tolman, 2018).

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An offender commits a sexually violent crime and is hospitalized in a mental hospital. For example, a civil commitment is related to involuntarily psychiatric hospitalization. Civil commitment helps patients with treatment and psychiatric care. For example, civil commitment statutes suggest sex offenders are involuntarily hospitalized versus a criminal sentence. Civil commitment is similar to a prison sentence. For example, a sex offender's civil commitment versus a similar criminal punishment like the prison system. If a sex offender is dangerous and doesn't have a mental illness the offender will serve prison time. The civil commitment of sex offenders are committed to a psychiatric hospital for mental illness and convicted of treatment (Kim Bell Post-Dispatch Jefferson, City Bureau, 1998).

Let's look at issues of releasing sex offenders when their sentence is completed. Policies are created to protect the public from sex offenders. However, there are issues to review when releasing sex offenders when their sentence ends. For example, an issue to acknowledge when releasing a sex offender from civil commitment and or prison to a community is that an offender can commit a new sex crime (Meloy et al, 2008). Although, policies are created to resolve the social problem of sex offenders the possibility still exists. For example, when a sex offender is released it increases the possibility of victimization.

Laws restrictions apply to sex offenders after release. For example, sex offenders have restrictions on where they can work and live. These areas include child-safety protection or exclusion areas. More so, these areas restrict sex offenders from living in particular areas. For example, these areas include parks, schools, daycare, and playgrounds. The concept contributes to minimizing issues after sex offenders are released from a sentence. For example, Florida (1995) has a residence restriction for sex offenders (Meloy et al, 2008). However, there is minimal evidence that a sex offender's residence near where children congregate is linked to sexual re-offending. Perhaps a more pressing issue is the victimization of children is more likely by a friend or a family member. Sexual predators are likely to have a relationship with the victim (Meloy et al, 2008). In other words, this type of sex offender can sexually offend a different family member or a family friend.

The issue of sexual recidivism with sex offenders is considered extensively flawed. Recidivism varies from civil commitment versus a criminal sentence. For instance, sex offenders can pose a serious threat to public safety when released. Research suggests that a sex offender can complete a successful treatment and possibly relapse into precious criminal behaviors. However, there is no proof that a sex offender will repeat a sexual offense correlated to residency restrictions. For instance, re-offending is not significantly connected to the offender's residences close to schools, daycare, or parks. Results suggest that for approximately 16 years sex offenders released do not typically re-offend near schools, daycare, or parks close to their residence (Meloy et al, 2008).

Perhaps it's still a possible increased issue of sex offenders. For example, a sex offender issue could increase due to residing near schools, daycare, and parks. In other words, a sex offender has easier access to a potential victim near a school. To resolve and minimize the issue of sexual offenses after release more research should be conducted to protect the public (Meloy et al, 2008). Although sex offenders are limited in some states through local ordinances and or by parole, probation, and or courts. Overall, there are many issues when releasing a sex offender from a sentence and civil commitment. As a result, laws have been created to minimize sex offender issues. For example, Jessica's Law (2005) Florida law was created to protect potential victims and reduce re-offending by sex offenders (Volusia Sheriff Government, 2023). Jessica Lunsford Act was designed to prevent sex offenses against children under 12. However, to avoid issues after sentence completion or continued civil commitment released offenders should have stability. For example, to minimize issues of released offenders need stable employment, housing, social networks, and community support.

Another issue to consider is that many offenses are not reported. For example, one in four sexual assaults is reported to the police. It’s important to acknowledge that only 29 percent of serious teenage sexual assaults result in arrest. Perhaps sex offender management, treatment effectiveness, and civil commitment can decrease the chances of re-offending. For example, improving risk assessment and civil commitment evaluation is consistent with sexual recidivism rates. On the other hand, a criminal sentence indicates sex offenders released from prison or probation, which remains a debate (Przybylski, 2023). For example, sex offenders 60 and older show a lower rate of recidivism. Overall,

the state is civilly committed to retaining a sex offender that is dangerous in a hospital setting. The issue is that they may re-offend when released without effective policies in place. For example, an issue with civil commitment is an effective policy for dealing with dangerous sex offenders. It's important to determine if sex offender treatment is effective (Przybylski, 2023). Implementing laws and policies to protect the public against sex offenses is a detrimental issue. Therefore, crime control and prevention strategies must include extensive support for the success of public safety. The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SONRA) is a requirement for a sex offender to register to minimize issues with re-offending. For example, the law requires a sex offender to make appearances in person and update registration information (SMART, 2023). When released from prison a sex offender must regularly verify information in person. For example, when a sex offender lives and works in two different states, the offender will need to register in both states (SMART, 2023).

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Careers in the Forensic Psychology Field

Forensic psychology is considered a subfield of psychology with applied psychological science (Neal, 2018). The carrier emphasizes an advanced education for the professional practice of psychology. A career in forensic psychology helps create an understanding of both forensic science and psychology (Staff Writer, 2020). A forensic psychology career is inclined to provide advanced strategic thinking skills and strong communication skills (Staff Writer, 2020). As a forensic psychologist, there is a keen opportunity to use skills, learn body language, conduct interviews, and analyze answers (Staff Writer, 2020). Forensic psychology will contribute to understanding the reason crimes are committed. This career is focused on public safety and helping offenders recover.

A forensic psychology career helps the professional learn complex patterns of criminal behaviors. In a forensic psychology career, you work hand in hand in hand with the legal system and criminal justice systems, and mental health professionals (Study.com, 2019). In addition, there is ample room to have an opportunity to learn different techniques and methods. For example, performing an extensive psychological assessment, research methods, psychopathology, psychological injury, behavioral criminology, and counseling methods (Study.com, 2019). A forensic psychology career introduces important ethical dilemmas, theories, issues, and the risk of criminal behaviors. A career in forensic psychology can link the understanding of how to work with dangerous criminals. For example, working with prisoners and conducting psychological assessments. A foren-

sic psychology career can help you determine if you're in danger. For example, learning behavioral patterns of an inmate's body language. In this career, it's important to learn and understand behavioral patterns, odd patterns, and triggers for criminal activity. For example, taking safety precautions when conducting interviews with sex offenders and murderers in a prison setting. More so, this career can provide an opportunity to analyze criminal acts. In other words, criminal behavior is a complex part of a forensic psychology career. Therefore, learning new methods and strategies in forensic psychology career is essential. In particular, learning counseling methods, research methods, and behavioral criminology (Study.com, 2019). Becoming a forensic psychologist offers a lot of new issues in criminal behavior. The career is determined to reduce the risk of criminal behavior.

Forensic psychologist serves as a conduit for the mental health system and legal system. It's the application of scientific principles research and clinical practice. The concept is focused on understanding what contributes to committing criminal activity and preventing criminal activity in the future. A forensic psychologist will study past behavioral criminal acts, question potential suspects and convicted criminals, and conduct clinical evaluations (Drummond, 2023). For example, the job entails the forensic psychologist will analyze and interpret habitual partners and behaviors linked to committing crimes.

A forensic psychologist specializes in a variety of fields after completing an educational program. For example, there is a forensic psychology undergraduate and a graduate degree to pursue a career in the field. An undergraduate degree can help in starting a

career in providing specialist services. On the other hand, a graduate degree can open up more roles in the field. For example, providing evaluations and counseling services to clients in hospitals or prison settings. However, both require supervised clinical hours until a license is obtained in your state (Drummond, 2023). That being said, different states have different rules and regulations of licensure requirements.

Let's look at some careers after earning a bachelor's degree. First, with a forensic psychology bachelor's degree, an essential role is becoming a victim advocate. As a victim advocate, you will work closely with crime victims of traumatic events in the legal system. Some victim advocate duties will include a detailed criminal justice process. For example, helping victims find legal representation, attending court with victims, educating victims about legal rights, assisting with complex reports, and attending during police questioning (Drummond, 2023). Second, with a forensic psychology bachelor's degree, an essential role is becoming a court liaison. In this role, you participate in the process of the criminal justice system by working as a court liaison. For example, a court liaison works directly with the police department and criminal court system. Generally, court liaisons are not sworn officers but work hand in hand with police departments (Drummond, 2023). For example, the job can include registering sex offenders. Third, with a forensic psychology bachelor's degree, an essential role is becoming a police officer. Most police departments do not require a degree to attend the academy. However, a degree can provide an avenue for higher positions. For example, a bachelor's degree can assist you in becoming a detective faster. Last, with a forensic psychology bachelor's degree an essential role is becoming a probation officer (Drummond, 2023). Probation offi-

cers typically attend an extensive training program. However, each state has its policies and procedures on how to become a probation officer. Probation knows of policies and procedures. For example, a probation officer works closely with an offender after release from prison to ensure housing stability, employment stability, and re-offending prevention.

Let's look at some careers after earning a master's degree. First, with a forensic psychology master's degree, an essential role is becoming a social worker (Drummond, 2023). For example, this role can help with researching, assessing, and providing support for addictions and domestic violence. Second, another opportunity available with a master's degree is becoming a jury consultant (Drummond, 2023). For example, a jury consultant will work closely with the justice system and legal departments. Jury consultants know about criminal justice and human behaviors to help jurors. Third, with a master's degree, you can become a licensed professional clinical counselor. For example, a licensed counselor can provide substance abuse treatment, inpatient, outpatient, correctional families, hospitals, and private practice counseling. Fourth, with a forensic psychology master's degree, an essential role is becoming a juvenile offenders counselor. For example, working in the criminal system navigating teens faced with neglect and sexual abuse provides services. Last, with a master's you can become a research assistant. For example, conducting forensic psychological research and analyzing data (Drummond, 2023).

Last, let's look at a forensic psychologist doctoral degree. A doctoral degree can offer endless possibilities and opportunities with degree in doctor of philosophy or psychology. For example, treatment careers, forensic psychology, psychology research, and.

expert witness. These opportunities include working closely with the justice system, prison facilities, hospitals, clinics, agencies, professors, instructors, FBI, and private practice (Drummond, 2023).

In conclusion, there are issues when releasing sex offenders after completing their sentence. These issues are linked to civil commitment and prison sentences. Overall, policies can effectively minimize issues. An issue to be aware of when releasing a sex offender from civil commitment and or prison to a community is that an offender can commit a new criminal offense. Although, policies are in place to help resolve the issues the social problem of sex offenders possibly committing new crimes. When a sex offender is released it increases the chances for criminal behaviors. The law can help decrease the chances but issues are still present. Restrictions are important to prevent these issues from occurring. Some restrictions include child-safety protection or exclusion areas. These areas are restricted to living in certain areas only. Some surrounding areas which prohibit sex offenders are parks, schools, daycare, and playgrounds. In the end, there are issues to keep in mind when releasing sex offenders and taking safety precautions. Now, let's look at careers in forensic psychology. When earning a forensic psychology bachelor's degree you can work in a variety of fields. You can become a victim advocate helping victims with traumatic events in the legal system. You can also become a court liaison. This career will help you in the criminal justice system working as a court liaison for the police department and or criminal court system. On the other hand, when earning your master's degree you can become a social worker, jury consultant, licensed professional, or juvenile

offenders counselor. These opportunities are at a higher level with similar career opportunities. Last, with a forensic psychologist doctoral degree there are endless opportunities with a degree in doctor of philosophy or psychology. You can work closely with various treatment centers, forensic psychologists, psychology researchers, and expert witnesses. This can include the justice system, prison facilities, hospitals, clinics, and private practice.

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